THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • MONDAY • FEBRUARY 23, 2026 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 18 • LATE CITY EDITION

South Africa players celebrate the wicket of India's Tilak Varma on Sunday. The Proteas beat India by 76 runs, handing them their first loss of T20 WC | AFP | P13

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India delays negotiators' US visit amid tariff uncertainty

India, US trade negotiating teams were to begin talks in Washington on Monday

PUSHPITA DEY @ New Delhi

THE scheduled visit of India's trade negotiating team to the US this week has been postponed in the wake of the US Supreme Court striking down the sweeping tariffs imposed by the Trump administration on various countries, said an official with the Ministry of Commerce.

The Indian delegation, led by Commerce Ministry Joint Secretary Darpan Jain, was supposed to depart for Washington on Sunday and the three-day talks were to begin on Monday. After final negotiations, both sides were expected to conclude the text of the interim trade agreement.

According to the commerce ministry, the decision to reschedule the visit of the Indian team was taken by both sides after assessing the latest developments and their implications for the negotiations. "The next date of the visit to the US is yet to be decided," said an official.

On Friday, in a major setback to US President Donald Trump, the US Supreme Court ruled that the tariffs imposed by Trump on nations around the world were illegal and that the president had exceeded his authority when he imposed the sweeping levies by using the International Emergency Economic Powers Act of 1977.

Hours after the adverse verdict, Trump announced a 10% tariff on imports from all countries, including India, effective February 24 for 150 days. A day later, he increased the across-the-board tariff to 15%.

The US had imposed a 25% reciprocal tariff on India in August 2025. Later, an additional 25% duty was slapped for buying Russian crude oil, taking the total tariffs on India to 50%. Earlier this month, India and the US agreed on a framework to finalise an interim trade deal, under which Washington would cut down the reciprocal tariffs from 25% to 18%. The additional 25% penal duty was also removed.

Under this plan, the US was to bring down tariff to 18% on Indian exports. However, in light of the Supreme Court verdict, there is a question mark on the effective rate. Trump's remark that "nothing changes for India" added to the confusion.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal had previously said that the interim trade agreement between India and the US was expected to be signed in March and implemented in April.

1 New date after evaluation

Sources said the visit has been put off to give both sides time to evaluate the latest developments and their implications. The meeting will be rescheduled at a mutually convenient date

2 Confusion over rate

Trump's remark that 'nothing changes for India' after the US Supreme Court verdict added to the confusion among Indian exporters about the effective tariff rate

3 'Negotiating blocs needed'

Countries affected by US tariffs should form 'negotiating blocs' instead of negotiating with Trump, said Brazil's President Lula da Silva, suggesting 'unionisation' of those suffering from US tariffs

US must treat all countries equally: Lula

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva on Sunday urged the US not to spark a 'new Cold War' and called for all countries to be treated equally, signalling a desire to reset relations ahead of his planned visit to Washington next month.

"I want to tell US President Donald Trump that we don't want a new Cold War. We don't want interference in any other country. We want all countries to be treated equally," Lula said at a press conference in New Delhi, where he wrapped up a three-day visit to India.

Brazil President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva

Lula said his agenda would focus on trade, immigration, investment, and academic ties. Relations between Brasília and Washington have been tense in recent months, with disputes ranging from tariffs on Brazilian exports to disagreements on foreign policy.

The Brazilian leader, known for his Leftist positions and has often clashed with Trump on trade and foreign policy, stressed dialogue over confrontation. "We don't want to interfere in any country; we want all nations to be treated fairly," he said.

In recent months, the Trump administration eased some tensions, exempting key Brazilian exports from a 40% tariff imposed last year. Lula described the thaw in relations as a step toward global stability.

Lula's visit to India also focused on strategic partnerships, with both countries agreeing to strengthen cooperation on critical minerals and rare earths. The two nations signed a series of agreements covering trade, technology, and innovation during the meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

PM lashes out at Cong over shirtless protest

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

They can't perform in Parliament and do not allow their allies to speak. By not allowing Parliament to function, it is their allies who suffer

Narendra Modi

Thanks INDIA allies

The PM thanked other INDIA bloc allies for criticising the Congress over the Delhi protest. "The allied parties have shown courage to criticise Congress."

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday launched a scathing attack on the Indian National Congress, days after a shirtless protest was staged by Congress workers at the AI impact Summit.

Addressing a rally in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, which faces Assembly elections next year, Modi accused the Congress of misconduct and said its "unbridled leadership was bent on damaging the country's interests."

Breaking his silence over the shirtless protest for the first time, Modi said, " The *sarfira* (crazy) and *be-lagaam* (reckless) leader of Congress is hellbent on destroying the country. I ask Congress leaders that the nation already knows your true form, what was the need to strip further?"

He accused the Congress of turning a global event into a platform for dirty politics. He said the party had disrespected a forum meant to showcase India's technological prowess.

Describing the protest as a sign of ideological bankruptcy, Modi sought to draw a distinction between the Congress and its partners in the opposition INDIA bloc. He said no other opposition parties, including the All India Trinamool Congress, the BSP and the DMK had acted in a similar manner.

In an apparent reference to a top Congress leader, Modi said: "If you want to sit in the Prime Minister's chair, first of all you have to win the hearts of the people of this country. By sending women MPs and capturing seats, you cannot become the Prime Minister."

PM Narendra Modi talks to a passenger during a metro ride in Meerut; UP CM Yogi Adityanath is also seen | PTI

SKY STING

ISRAEL MISSILE PART OF PM'S VISIT AGENDA

India is likely to advance discussions on procuring the Israeli-origin 'Sky-sting' beyond-visual-range-air-to-air missile during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Israel | P9

J&K ENCOUNTER

JeM topgun among three terrorists killed

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

SECURITY forces on Sunday dealt a major blow to militant outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad by killing three of its Pakistani militants in encounters in the dense forests of Chatroo in Kishtwar of J&K.

The gunfight broke out in the Passerkut area of Chatroo forest after a joint operation by army, police and CRPF acting on intelligence under Operation Trashi-I.

Preliminary assessments by security forces suggest that one of the deceased is Saifullah, a notorious JeM commander. He had infiltrated into Jammu and Kashmir nearly five years ago and had masterminded a flurry of deadly attacks on security forces, including one in July 2024 that left four soldiers dead. Saifullah had escaped a number of encounters in the past.

"Troops of CIF Delta in close coordination with J&K police, and CRPF re-engaged militants at approximately 11 am in challenging terrain," an Army spokesperson said. Two AK-47 rifles and other war-like stores were recovered from the encounter site.

Sources said militants were hiding inside a mud house located on the foothills. A trained K9 canine 'Tyson' from 2 Parachute regiment (Special Forces) played a key role in locating the militants. Troops launched a decisive assault on militant positions in the mud house, leading to the encounters.

Panchayat, corpn polls by June, says CM

SUBHASH CHANDRA NS @Manjugini (Uttara Kannada)

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday announced that elections to zilla and taluk panchayats will be held by June this year. Replying to a question on whether Gokarna will be upgraded as a TMC, he said it is not possible as the election process has begun and the polls would be held by June.

The government has been facing criticism for not holding local body elections since it came to power in 2023. The polls have been pending for a long time, while the tenure of 195 urban local bodies ended without an election.

In all, 5,952 gram panchayats, 239 taluk panchayats, 31 zilla panchayats and five city corporations will now go to the polls.

EXPRESS READ

Govt mulls mobile ban for under-16 children

Bengaluru: The state government is actively considering a ban on mobile phone usage for children below 16 years, said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday | P2

T20 HIT-WAVE
ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP

Today's Match

7pm: Zimbabwe vs West Indies (Mumbai)

LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT, DELHI

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on

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Former Union Minister & Chairman-BOG, LBSIM
will preside

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